**Woods Runner: Gary Paulsen**

**Chapter 1:**

***Vocabulary:***

* *Moccasins*
* *Parchment*
* *Impenetrable*
* *Canopy*
* *Game*

***Line Catchers:***

1. *Pg. 6, line 4-*

“Because the forest pulled them and the wild would not let them go.”

1. ***Pg. 8, line 11-***

**“The odor of stew cooking in the cast-iron pot over an outside fire or in an iron kettle hung in the fire place, the scent flying up through the chimney and out over the ground as the wind moved the smoke around.”**

1. ***Pg. 8, line 20-***

**“Their valley was like a huge bowl, nestled in the hills in far western Pennsylvania.**

**Discussion Questions:**

1. **On page 5, the narrator introduces the reader to Ishmael, “a very old man of nearly fifty.” Using prior knowledge, express why the age of fifty would be considered old during the time in which Woods Runner is set in? Use text evidence to support your answer.**
2. **“He pictured his life, how he lived in two worlds.” After reading this statement, describe how Paulsen depicts these two worlds? What type of language does Paulsen use to convey meaning to the reader?**

**Woods Runner: Gary Paulsen**

**Chapter 2**

***Vocabulary:***

* *Bayonet*
* *Militia*
* *Musket*
* *Gaggle*
* *Marauding*

***Line Catchers:***

1. *Pg. 14, line 14-*

*“*Since they was so much noise from the sprats as it seemed a dozen of them and my thinker fuzzed up like old powder and my recollecter might not be all it could be.”

1. *Pg 16, line19-*

“Well, I think we should wait and see how the wind blows.”

**Discussion Questions:**

1. **How can Isaac’s character be described? How does Paulsen’s use of dialogue enable the reader to better understand the character? Use text evidence to support your answer.**
2. **“Not a single person in that cabin could have known what was coming. And even if they had seen the future, they would not have been able to imagine the horror.”**

**Analyze the statement above. What literary device does Paulsen use? What can the reader infer will occur in later chapters as a result of this statement?**

**Woods Runner: Gary Paulsen/ Chapter 3**

***Vocabulary:***

* *Felled*
* *Lush*
* *Clutch*
* *Yearling*

***Line Catchers:***

1. *Pg 20, line 14-*

*“*He stood leaning on it, studying the smoke the way he would read a sign from a wounded animal trying to see the “why” of it.

1. *Pg 21, line 7-*

“He frowned, looking at the smoke, willing it to not be what was coming into his mind like a dark snake, a slithering horror.”

**Discussion Questions:**

1. **“Something was…off. If not wrong, then different. The woods felt strange, as if something had changed or was about to change."**

**Evaluate why Samuel may have felt this way. Make a self-to-text connection that relates to the way Samuel felt within that instance.**

**Use text evidence to support your answer.**

1. **When Samuel notices the smoke in the distance, he begins to process possibilities for what was causing the “gray smudge” in the distance. Describe Samuel’s thought process. How did he evaluate the situation, and what led him to make his final judgment?**

**Woods Runner: Gary Paulsen/Chapter 4**

***Vocabulary:***

* *Stealth*
* *Keenly*
* *Frantic*
* *Mutilated*
* *Savage*

***Line Catchers:***

1. *Pg. 27, line 10-*

*“*He’d made good time, running hard until his lungs seemed to be on fire, then jogging until he got his breath, then back to the full-out run.”

1. *Pg. 29, line 2-*

*“*A frantic need took him, the thought that the next body might be the one he dreaded most to find, and he ran from one to another trying to identify them in the failing light.

1. *Pg. 29, line 17-*

“He stood, his breathing ragged, sobbing softly. Twice he had thrown up, and the smell and the taste mixed with the tears of frustration and grief for his friends, and rage for what had been done to them.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. **­Samuel arrives home to find the cabins burned and dead bodies strewn across the land. Paulsen uses descriptive language to describe Samuel’s feelings and actions. Choose two specific quotes/passages that enable the reader to visualize the scene.**
2. **After Samuel discovers that his parents are missing, he grabs a shovel and begins to dig graves for each of those who had perished. Evaluate Samuel’s actions. Explain why you believe Samuel did this? Incorporate what emotions Samuel might have been experiencing throughout the process. Use text evidence to support your answer.**
3. **Samuel tries to sleep, “sleeping deeply with all the bad dreams that he’d known would come; sleeping with twitches and jerks and whimpers at first, and then just sleep. Sleep.” Why does Paulsen stress the fact that Samuel was twitching, jerking, and whimpering in his sleep? What was the significance of ending the chapter with one word…sleep? Use text evidence to support your answer.**

**Woods Runner: Gary Paulsen/ Chapter 5**

***Vocabulary:***

* *Courier du bois*
* *Seer*
* *Unshod*
* *Misshapen*
* *Tomahawks*

***Line Catchers:***

1. *Pg 35, line 10-*

”And the more he was of the woods, of the wild, of the green, the less he was of the people.”

1. *Pg, 35, line 26-*

“ The water was so cold it hurt his teeth and so sweet it took some of the taste-stink from the evening before out of his mouth.”

1. *Pg. 37, line21-*

“ He could imagine the terror of the people in the settlement-the war cries of the attackers mixed with the screams of the victims and the smell of blood and fear and death.”

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Samuel starts tracking his parents once he locates footprints. He notices several sets of footprints, yet determines which ones belong to his father. What skills did Samuel use to do so and how did he learn those skills. Use text evidence to support your answer.
2. “And the attackers had taken the time to stop and slaughter the people who lived there.” What is the significance of this statement? What can you infer about the attacker’s character? What do their actions represent? Use text evidence to support your answer.

**Woods Runner: Gary Paulsen/ Chapter 6**

***Vocabulary:***

* *Anguish*
* *Scalped*
* *Spading*
* *Otherworldly*

***Line Catchers:***

1. *Pg. 41, line 1-*

*“*As he walked, Samuel felt as if he were following a killing storm.”

1. *Pg. 44, line 24-*

“With piercing intense and otherworldly green eyes, he stared, but not at Samuel. He looked through Samuel at some far place that only he could see, he could know.”

**Discussion Questions:**

1. We are introduced to the character Old Bobby, who is burying a body. Make a connection between the characters of Old Bobby and Samuel. Describe how two characters with such obvious differences also share an undeniable bond. Reference previous chapters and use text evidence to support your answer.
2. Samuel asks himself why Old Bobby’s life was spared. What did Samuel determine? What does his reasoning imply about cultural practices and tradition? Use text evidence to explain your answer.

**Woods Runner: Gary Paulsen/ Chapter 7**

***Vocabulary:***

* ***Coupstick***
* ***Hostile***
* ***Encampment***
* ***Foliage***
* ***Haunches***

***Line Catchers:***

1. *Pg. 47, line 5-*

“Hunger took over him like a wolf and he grabbed a half dozen ears, jamming them in his clothing.”

1. *Pg. 48, line 13-*

“ The overwhelming rage that he had begun to feel while following his mother’s footprints as she’d been savagely jerked along the trail was like a hot knife in his brain.”

1. *Pg. 47, line15-*

*“He knelt to put his mouth to the water and this act saved his life.”*

**Discussion Questions:**

1. The chapter ends with the following quote, “And just then, as he settled back to wait and think on some way to get the captives without being discovered-the whole world blew up.”Paulsen uses a metaphor to close out the chapter. Interpret what “the whole world blew up” symbolizes and what it represents in relation to Samuel’s emotions?
2. When Samuel discovers a campsite where captives are being held, he immediately begins to devise a plan to try and rescue them. What factors act as his motivation to carry out this plan? Use text evidence to support your answer.

**Woods Runner: Gary Paulsen/ Chapter 8**

***Vocabulary:***

* *Racket*
* *Muffled*
* *Jarred*
* *Enormity*
* *Whooping*

***Line Catchers:***

1. *Pg. 54, line 23-*

“Without thinking, his rifle at his hip, he touched the hair trigger and, in slow motion, felt the rifle buck, saw the small hole appear in the Indian’s chest.”

1. *Pg. 53, line 11-*

”But this new sound had the sharper, crackling quality of higher velocity rifles.”

1. *Pg. 55, line 5-*

*“The tomahawk was coming at his head and he tried to duck, but the white-hot pain exploded as the side of the tomahawk smashed into his forehead. And then, nothing.”*

**Discussion Questions:**

1. As Samuel is observing that actions of the natives, he realizes that they are being attacked by an unknown force. What affect will this occurrence have on Samuel’s journey? Make a judgment about what advantages and or disadvantages will play a role in his current goal.

**Woods Runner: Gary Paulsen/ Chapter 9**

***Vocabulary:***

* *Shrill*
* *Ladling*
* *Disgorged*
* *Righteous*
* *Fractious*

***Line Catchers:***

1. *Pg. 60, line8-*

“You been breathing like an old pump. I guess you was just sucking air hard because you didn’t die.”

1. *Pg. 64, line3-*

“It’s like fire, he thought, when you’re cold. Fire,moving through your body.”

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Samuel endures bouts of pain, nightmares riddled with flashbacks of his mother, and confusion. He awakes to see Coop, who had been watching over Samuel as he healed. Examine the relationship between these two characters. What can you infer may occur now that they have met?
2. What connection can be made between Coop, Samuel’s mother, and the dreams Samuel had during his recovery? What common factor was present which triggered Samuel’s flashbacks?

**Woods Runner: Gary Paulsen/ Chapter 10**

***Vocabulary:***

* *Abated*
* *Frizzen*
* *Ravenous*
* *Plod*

***Line Catchers:***

1. *Pg. 66, line 11-*

*“*The wound felt tight, as if someone were pulling the top of his scalp together.”

1. Pg. 68, line 25-

“Samuel still had dozens of questions but since the men were silent as they stood staring into the fire while they chewed, he held his tongue.”

**Discussion Questions:**

1. **Samuel thanks Coop for saving his life. Coop responds by saying, “Maybe. Maybe not. One never knows how a wind is going to blow.” Evaluate this statement. Make a connection, by referencing previous chapters. Where have we seen a similar quote? Do the meanings of each quote differ? Use text evidence to support your answer.**
2. **Samuel begins traveling with Coop, and the group of men who took him in. They never ask him to join their group, as Samuel never asks if he could journey with them. An unspoken bond is evident. Why do you believe no words need to be spoken between these characters to result in their joining forces?**
3. **Samuel’s injuries begin to result in him lagging behind the group. The last line in the chapter reads, “ I have to go faster.” Why does Samuel feel this way? What affect will his slow pace have on his journey?**

**Woods Runner: Gary Paulsen/ Chapter 11**

***Vocabulary:***

* ***Salivate***
* ***Confiscate***
* ***Scurried***
* ***Retched***

***Line Catchers:***

1. *Pg. 74, line8-*

“Still gonna be a war, catch it now or catch it later.”

1. Pg. 75, line7-

“Samuel took the advice to heart and worked well off the trail, which was becoming more like a road with two tracks. Even so, he doubled his speed.”

1. Pg. 83, line 5-

“Caleb wasn’t armed, though he raised his arm and pointed at the soldiers.”

**Discussion Questions:**

1. **Samuel meets the Clark family and they invite him to eat with them. He learns that his parents had been there three days earlier with the Indians and British soldiers. How does this news affect Samuel?**
2. **After Samuel witnesses the attack on the Clark’s farm, he struggles with the fact that he did nothing to help. Caleb and his wife are killed, but Annie escapes. Samuel vows to find her, and bring her with him to New York. Why does Samuel feel he must find her? Make a connection between these two characters after the events that have occurred leaving Annie to fend for herself.**

**Woods Runner: Gary Paulsen/ Chapter 12**

***Vocabulary:***

* ***Jolt***
* ***Haven***
* ***Stifled***
* ***Spiraling***

***Line Catchers:***

1. *Pg. 92, line12-*

*“*And he felt that the entire world he was heading into was against him.”

1. *Pg. 91, line24,*

*“*She was only eight, he thought, maybe nine, and her whole world had been absolutely destroyed.

Were there many like her? Everything gone because of this war? The innocent ones were the worst part of it all.”

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Now traveling with Annie, Samuel feels an instinctual need to care for her. What has occurred in Samuel’s past that results in his assuming the role of protector? Reference previous chapters and use text evidence to support your answer.

**Woods Runner: Gary Paulsen/ Chapter 13**

***Vocabulary:***

* ***Refuge***
* ***Tinker***
* ***Jest***
* ***Unkempt***

***Lin*e *Catchers:***

1. Pg. 95, line1-

“ She did not realize what she said, but Samuel heard the our. Something happened in her mind, she’d found a way to stand it all, to keep going.”

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Samuel and Annie form a bond throughout their travels. Annie beings to say “our parents” in reference to finding Ma and Pa. “I’m proud, he thought, to have you as a sister.” Express why Samuel refers to Annie as his sister. How does this exhibit change within his character?